

and in all sincerity that I tell you that the thing can only go on well if conducted by you and Lafontaine, and that it is this conviction which has brought me to the determination not to meddle with it in any way, unless it be to assist you if it is in my power.

I am, &c., your's,

(Signed,)

ED. CARON.

(From the Hon. W. H. Draper to the Hon. R. E. Caron.)

CONFIDENTIAL.

MONTREAL, 26th Nov. 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—The departure of Lord Metcalfe took place this morning. Although this change in no respect alters the opinion I entertain on the necessity of strengthening the local Administration, it materially alters the position in which I am and may be placed, and still more the powers I may have to effect anything beneficial and satisfactory.

I felt it my duty on Monday—the day on which I had the first official communication of His Lordship's intention—to apprise you of it, and in the same spirit I mention to you how I feel my position affected, as you have a right to expect from me the earliest intimation of every thing which may influence your own opinions and actions in this matter.

Believe me, &c.

W. H. DRAPER.

[From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. W. H. Draper.]

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, 26th November, 1845.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your note of the 24th. At the same time that you inform me of His Excellency's departure, you say, that you hasten to give me the information, because the news may perhaps change my views as to the nature of the last letter you wrote me. The opinion you have formed is perfectly correct, and the departure of His Excellency must indeed change my position.

You know that in the communications which have passed between us, I have not acted as the leader of a party; I have only lent myself, and that most willingly, as an intermediary between those whom our party regards as its *leaders*, and yourself, in order to forward to them the communications you made to me, and also to transmit to you their views and their ideas upon the subject on which we were engaged. In per

forming the task I undertook, I have not concealed from you my own opinions, but they have formed but a secondary consideration, and my object has constantly been to let you know what was desired and demanded by the leaders of the party with whom you wished to negotiate an agreement. I lent my aid for this purpose, solely because I knew that there existed for the moment obstacles which made it impossible that any communication should easily be made directly between the administration and those with whom it was necessary to communicate in order to attain the desired end. It seems to me that these obstacles exist no longer, and cannot again arise, and consequently, that my mission must cease with the causes out of which it arose.

I should, nevertheless, be sorry that you should infer from this, that I refuse my aid towards an arrangement which we both desire ; far from this, I am ready to do all in my power to facilitate it, and to hasten its conclusion. But as you have upon the spot those gentlemen on whom the success of the arrangement mainly depends, it would be more proper, more easy, and more expeditious to treat directly with them, at the same time, that I invite you to use no ceremony with me, and to point out to me freely in what way I can be useful.

I am, Dear Sir,

Very Sincerely Your's,

ED. CARON.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine.)

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, 6th February, 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I now acquit myself of my promise to send you copies of the letters which were wanting to complete the correspondence which has taken place between you and me and between Mr. Draper and me.

I rely on your discretion as to the use you will make of a correspondence commenced with the understanding that it should be confidential. I do not intend, however, to deprive you of the advantage which it might procure you, and I do not at all shrink from the responsibility of what I have written, and suggested ; but I have a right to expect that you will not make of all this a subject of discussion in the newspapers.

I am, dear friend, your's,

(Signed)

E. CARON.

TRANSLATION.

My DEAR FRIEND, which I should like to see us on Sunday proposal you to the entire and me, since

I have sincere desire, namely, that I have not and of the my name, to ever give which this cannot do so

I have corresponded party only, to make sure unanswerable tacitly at first case of failure this, you may you have right you acted with ing, there lent judgment to which not suffer

TRANSLATION.

My DEAR FRIEND until quit of Appeal